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PATENT

A circular ink stamp from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. The text "U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is curved along the bottom inner edge. The date "APR 25 2002" is stamped in the center. The word "PIPE" is partially visible at the top, and "Ser" is visible at the bottom right.

James DE PERNA, et al.

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 : Group Art Unit: 2131
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 : Examiner:
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Commissioner for Patents
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In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

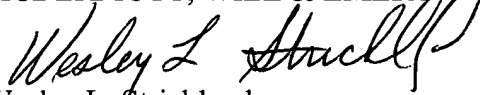
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein.

A copy of the foreign search report or office action is attached for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley L. Strickland", written over the printed name.

Wesley L. Strickland

Registration No. 44,363

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202)756-8000 WLS:kjw
Facsimile: (202)756-8087
Date: April 25, 2002

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TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/988,009

APPLICANT
James DE PERNA, et al.

FILING DATE
November 16, 2001

GROUP
2131

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						Yes	No

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED